The Power of One

An Inspirational Speech – Writing for Impact

Marin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Oprah Winfrey, Eleanor Roosevelt. All an inspiration, all imaginative, all regular people just like us.

I stand before you today as a typical, ordinary person. Part time job, mum and dad, little sister, four bedroom house in the suburbs. Nothing fancy. The people I mentioned before started their journey through life with even less. You may think, Oprah turned her life around and became a billionaire, I can’t do that. Yes you can. Nelson Mandela became a president, I can’t do that. Yes you can. Start small, think big, change lives.

Anything is possible if you just believe. Jessica Watson wanted to sail around the world, she did. Abraham Lincoln wanted to abolish the slave trade, he did. It may have been a battle, but both people accomplished something great, something others would only dream of. I wanted to change a person’s life. I did. I helped a bushfire victim in Victoria rebuild their home. I’m small I know, but I succeeded. I set my mind to something and achieved it. It may seem difficult, but little by little you’ll get the hang of it. You CAN change lives, you CAN do anything.

Start small. Want to help prevent global warming? Plant a tree. Want to become the next prime minister? Run for school captain or SRC. Want to become a famous actor? Audition for a school or local production. No one becomes successful overnight. It takes time, effort, hard work, something I can see in all of you here today. You all have potential, you will succeed, and you will all be an inspiration to someone, a role model. Just believe in yourself.

Everyone in this room today will have a family. One, two, three, eighty nine kids, it doesn’t matter how many, they’ll all look up to you. You don’t have to go to extremes to inspire them. Children are like sponges, they absorb their surrounds. If you set the table or pack the dishwasher, they’ll want to be just like daddy and help with the chores. They want to go to work and talk on the phone just like mummy does. If you lead by example, inspiration follows. Not only will being a role model change your own life, but also your children’s.

Step up to the plate, swing and miss a few times. Who cares, at least you’re giving it a go. Practice makes perfect they say. This is exactly the same with believing in yourself. Without self confidence, self love and self respect, how can you expect to inspire others? Over time you’ll develop more of a sense of self that you could only wish for before, and with this, you’ll inspire other to do the same. Knock down your walls, drop your weapons, and open yourself up to new feelings, new experiences and new ways of life. I guarantee others will follow you. Be yourself, believe in everything you do. Dare to dream, strive to achieve.

So remember, start small, think big. Dreams do come true. With a sprinkle of determination, a dash of confidence and a pinch of ambition, inspiration and the power to change lives is only a short distance away. Carpe Diem, seize the day. The power of one CAN make a difference, the power of one CAN take charge, and the voice of one CAN be heard. As I look out onto this audience today I can see, I know, that one is you.

Believe, achieve, succeed, inspire. Never doubt, never fear.

Thank you.